

the

GLOXINIAN

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 53, No. 4

Fourth Quarter 2003



Titanotrichum oldhamii

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri

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Awards — Colleen Turley, 8404 W. Harrison Ct., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1905 <codacats@aol.com>

Awards of Appreciation — Molly Schneider, 608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205-1314

Botanical Review — John Boggan, Dept. of Botany, NHB 166, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560 <jkb25@cornell.edu>

Bylaws and Parliamentarian — Helen Freidberg, 11 Arrowhead Rd., Weston, MA 02493-1706 <HelenDF@aol.com>

Chapters and Affiliates — Arleen Dewell, #311-2366 Wall Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5L 4Y1 <arleendewell@shaw.ca>

Conventions — Helen Freidberg, 11 Arrowhead Rd., Weston, MA 02493-1706 <HelenDF@aol.com>

Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund — Dr. Laurence Skog, 611 Roberts Drive NW, Vienna, VA 22180-4178 <skog.larry@nmnh.si.edu>

Finance — Nellie Sleeth, 2913 N. Monroe, Tacoma, WA 98407-5320

Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund — Paul Susi, 6 Upper Lane, Centerport, NY 11721 <captaur@optonline.net>

Gesneriad Register — Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068-1102 <jbecker@mohawk.net>

Historian — Suzie Larouche, 20 Carlton St., app. 1521, Toronto ON Canada M5B 2H5 <suzielaro@sympatico.ca>

Insurance — Helen Bortvedt, 20 Beeson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382-8870 <hmbort@olypen.com>

Internet Communications — David Turley, 8404 W. Harrison Ct., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1905 <webmaster@aggs.org>

Library and Education — Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Road, Stow, MA 01775 <dee.stewart@110.net>

Newsletters — Leslie Milde, 373 Main St., (P.O. Box 14), Fremont, NH 03044 <meribush@aol.com>

Photography — Julie Mavity-Hudson, 1015 Park Lane, Joelton, TN 37080 <Julie.Mavity-Hudson@vanderbilt.edu>

Properties — Doris Brownlie, 80-600 Silvercreek Blvd., Mississauga, ON, L5A 2B4 Canada <jtbrownlie@idirect.com>

Publications — Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004 <PATTER257@aol.com>

Publicity Membership Promotion — Carol Ann Bonner, 3705 Tibbs Drive, Nashville, TN 37211 <cadastra@mindspring.com>

Review — Peter Shalit, 1312 E. Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98122-2519 <ps83@cornell.edu>

Seed Fund — Bob & Carol Connelly, 2391 Phillips Dr., Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2450 <Bob_Connelly@email.msn.com>

Shows and Judging — Ben Paternoster, 14 Coptor Ct., Huntington, NY 11743-2335 <BenPaternoster@worldnet.att.net>

Standing Rules — Susan Grose, 4201 W. 99th St., Overland Park, KS 66207-3732 <sagrose@aol.com>

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American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

EDITOR

Jeanne Katzenstein <editor@aggs.org>
1 Hallvard Terrace
Rockaway, NJ 07866

EDITOR'S DEADLINES

First Quarter October 1
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EDITORIAL STAFF AND

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Frances Batcheller, Judy Becker, John Boggan, Carol Ann Bonner, Arleen Dewell, Peter Shalit

BUSINESS MANAGER

Michael A. Riley <riley2362@aol.com>
101 West 104th Street
New York, NY 10025

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Tom Bruning <advertising@aggs.org>
31233 Beechnut Road
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

MEMBERSHIP AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS

AGGS Membership Secretary
Bob Clark <membership@aggs.org>
118 Byron Avenue
Lawrence, MA 01841-4444

CONTRIBUTIONS AND INSURANCE

Helen Bortvedt <hmbort@olypen.com>
20 Beeson Road
P.O. Box 2584
Sequim, WA 98382-8870

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CONTENTS

President's Message

— *Susan Grose* 5

Convention Board Review 2003

— *Peter Shalit* 6

AGGS Dues Increase

..... 7

Seed Fund

— *Bob & Carol Connelly* 9

A Capital Affair

— *JoAnne Martinez* 10

Coming Events

..... 15

2003 Convention Flower Show Awards

— *Colleen Turley* 16

Awards of Appreciation

— *Molly Schneider* 26

Convention 2003 – What a Capital Affair!

— *Arleen Dewell* 28

The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund

— *Paul Susi* 30

How I Grow *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

— *Bill Price* 32

The Creation of My Beaded Vase

— *Deb Weinman* 33

My Introduction to Tropical Field Biology

— *John R. Clark* 35

Gesneriad Register

— *Judy Becker* 41

Botanical Review Committee, Report #26

— *John Boggan* 46

Research on Gesneriaceae in Austria:

Part I – The Early Roots

— *Anton Weber* 48

AGGS Slide Programs

— *Dee Stewart* 53

Special Contributions

— *Fay Wagman* 54

COVER

Titanotrichum oldhamii
grown by Bill Price
awarded Best in Show
at the 2003 Convention

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Arizona	Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society — Joan Dixon, 2950 N. Camino del Oeste, Tucson, AZ 85745
Arkansas	Northwest Arkansas Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society — David Harris, 1372 S. Kentwood Ave., Springfield, MO 65804-0220
California	American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco — Terri Lynn Campbell, 4001 Barrett Ave., Richmond, CA 94805 Culver City — Charlotte Rosengrant, 2705 Krim Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90094 Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society — Leona Faoro, 7361 22nd St., Sacramento, CA 95822-4911 Grow and Study — Al Striepens, 2225 Deepgrove Ave., Rowland Heights, CA 91748-4208 Peninsula — Brigitte McKnight, 1109 Stafford Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014
Colorado	Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers — Harry Weber, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr., Loveland, CO 80537
Connecticut	Connecticut — Margaret Fargeot, 235 Alps Road, Branford, CT 06405
Delaware	Delaware — Carol Callaghan, 2806 Rickdale Road, Wilmington, DE 19810
Florida	Caribbean Basin — Timothy Anderson, 9995 SW 66th Street, Miami, FL 33173-1446 Suncoast — Melissa McDowell, 1502 Eastbrook Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231 Tampa Bay — JoAnne Martinez, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613
Georgia	Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group — William Crews, 5862 Musket Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-1707
Illinois	Northern Illinois — Bob Nicholson, PMB #282, 119 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056-3219
Kansas/Missouri	Heart of America — Grace McCurnin, 6812 Reeds Rd., Overland Park, KS 66204
Massachusetts	New England — Bob Clark, 118 Byron Ave., Lawrence, MA 01841
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Minnesota	Twin Cities Area — Esther Oleisky, 1997 Field Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116
Missouri	Gateway West — Gary Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Road, Hillsboro, MO 63050
New Jersey	Frelinghuysen Arboretum — Judy Padalino, 76 Downs Ave., Wharton, NJ 07885 New Jersey — Anita Flaim, 78 Holt St., Dumont, NJ 07628
New York	The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York - Judy Niemira, 12 Dappled Dr., East Amhurst, NY 14051 Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York — Fran Valerio, 2643 Cambrier Rd., Newark, NY 14513 Greater New York — Brigitte Lifschitz, 222 West 83rd St., Apt. 7C, New York, NY 10024-4909 Long Island — Phyllis Channing, 2179 Walsall St., Seaford, NY 11783-2522 Vestal African Violet & Gesneriad Society — Lee Stradley, 1923 Cole Pl., Vestal, NY 13850-5718
Oregon	Mt. Hood — Vivian Scheans, 4660 SW Dogwood Drive, Lake Oswego, OR 97035-8412
Pennsylvania	Liberty Bell — Peggy DePhillippo, 1074 Grange Ave., Collegeville, PA 19426 Pittsburgh African Violet & Gesneriad Society — Georgene Albrecht, 101 Oak Heights Dr., Oakdale, PA 15071
Tennessee	Tennessee — Jonathan Ertelt, 2536 Blair Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212
Washington	Puget Sound — Andrea Pirone, 6325 Wood Bay Lane NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Washington, D.C.	National Capital — Laurene Jones, 3430 Luttrell Rd., Annandale, VA 22003-1269
Canada	Carefree — Florence Duesterbeck, 2235 Montreal Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1L7, Canada Edmonton — Jack Hurt, 7809 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton, AB T6G 2L3, Canada Toronto — Robert Hall, 90 Sumach Street, #609, Toronto, Ont. M5A 4R4, Canada Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society — Marilyn Allen, 8 Brackenridge Pl., Port Moody, BC, V3H 4G4 Canada
Sweden	Gesneriasts of Sweden — Ingrid Lindskog, Snickargatan 11, 903 60 UMEÅ, Sweden

Go to www.aggs.org for chapter email contacts.

Flower show photographs courtesy of the Convention Photography Team:
Julie Mavity-Hudson, Carol Ann Bonner, Dale Martens, Michael Riley, Paul Susi
with assistance from Karyn Cichocki and Randy Baron

Convention black and white photos courtesy of Paul Susi and Jeanne Katzenstein

See page 25 for color photo sponsors

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Lauray of Salisbury15	Violets in Vogue8

President's Message

Susan Grose <sagrose@aol.com>
4201 West 99th St., Overland Park, KS 66207

Greetings Gesneriad Friends Around the World,

Many of us have just returned from the invigorating experience of attending the AGGS annual convention and flower show in Sacramento, California. Members of the Delta Chapter, with support from members of the Peninsula and San Francisco Chapters, worked hard to reward attendees with a great convention. We viewed many plants never before seen in a convention flower show. New varieties as well as some old favorites were offered at the plant sale. I was ecstatic to find and purchase a number of gesneriads that had long been on my personal "wish list" of plants to acquire. As is the custom among gesneriad growers, people whose plants could spare cuttings generously offered them to other growers. Some offered their entire show plants to be put up for auction to the highest bidder with the proceeds going to the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund. Special thanks go to all who took the time and made special preparations to enter plants and other exhibits in the show. Nothing replaces seeing an actual live-growing specimen gesneriad, and this is one of the many rewarding experiences of attending convention. Be sure to read the list of award-winning entries and their exhibitors in this issue. Attending an AGGS Convention is the best way I know to acquire the greatest variety of gesneriad information in the shortest period of time. If you missed this year's convention, you should begin to plan now for July 2004 when we will gather in Smithtown, Long Island, New York.

In addition to attending a convention, another way for members to communicate about gesneriads is through our journal, THE GLOXINIAN. I would like to encourage gesneriad enthusiasts to submit articles so growing experiences can be shared with all members of AGGS. This is your journal. It is a publication for gesneriad growers in which to communicate information about gesneriad culture whether it be in the wild habitat observed by professional botanists doing field work, in the more controlled conditions of botanic gardens and specialty greenhouses, or in the home environments of experienced as well as new hobbyists. Everyone can benefit from the experiences of others. All members are welcome to submit articles to THE GLOXINIAN sharing growing tips, observations you have made on your plants, or the range of conditions you have subjected them to and what they tolerated. Articles on "tips and tricks" you have discovered for certain plants or growing conditions that work for you might be just the information another reader is looking for. Some gesneriad plants seem to be flexible and can adapt to a range of environments and cultural practices, yet other gesneriads are less forgiving when grown in conditions different from their native habitat. I know many growers write detailed anecdotal information on how they grow their plants for some of the mailing list groups on the internet. I am certain many members who don't subscribe nor have access to these electronic communications would greatly appreciate reading these accounts. I encourage all of you to share your growing experiences by sending an article to the

Editor of THE GLOXINIAN so that all gesneriad enthusiasts can benefit. Other members want to hear from you. This is OUR journal!

I look forward to reading your articles.

Susan



Convention Board Review 2003

Peter Shalit, Recording Secretary <ps83@cornell.edu>
1312 East Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98122-2519

The American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society recently held its 2003 Annual Convention at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento, California. Your AGGS Board, led by President Susan Grose, met on July 1, 4, and 6 during the convention. In addition, the annual General Membership Meeting was held on Friday, July 4.

The Board re-elected the following AGGS Officers for a term ending in 2005: Susan Grose, President; Carol Ann Bonner, First Vice President, and Peter Shalit, Recording Secretary.

Board Member Connie Leifeste has had to resign for health reasons. President Susan Grose appointed Alan LaVergne to fill her unexpired term.

The Board is working on a number of exciting projects to further the aims of the Society. Several Ad Hoc committees were set up during the convention, and these will continue their work during the coming year. Stay tuned to hear about these efforts as they develop.

At the AGGS General Membership Meeting, the Slate of Directors presented by the Nominating Committee was approved and directors were elected for a three-year term ending in 2006: Susan Grose, Suzie Larouche, Ingrid Lindskog, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Leslie Milde, Elizabeth Varley, and Harry Weber. Next year's Nominating Committee will consist of Jo Anne Martinez (chair), Carolyn Ripps (filling the unexpired term of Connie Leifeste), and Carolyn Conlin-Lane.

The Membership also ratified the AGGS dues increase to \$25 per year for individual membership, with other classes of membership increased accordingly as described in THE GLOXINIAN earlier this year. The change will take place in 2004. For details, see the information box at the end of this article.

Also at the Membership Meeting, Molly Schneider presented Awards of Appreciation to two AGGS members and promoters of gesneriads: Bill Burt and yours truly, Peter Shalit. (An article about these two awardees appears on page 36 of this issue.) All recipients of Awards of Appreciation now receive Life Memberships in AGGS.

The Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society, AGGS' newest chapter, proudly received its charter at the General Membership Meeting. Arleen Dewell, our Chapters and Affiliates Chair, is working with other groups of AGGS members around the world to form new chapters.

Helen Freidberg, AGGS Conventions Chair, announced that next year's convention will be held in Long Island, New York, and the following year's will be in Portland, Oregon. We need volunteers to host conventions after 2005. Chapters or individuals interested in hosting an AGGS Convention should contact Helen.

The AGGS Auctions, to benefit the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund, are a high point of every convention. This year's auctions took in over \$3000. Bill Price, Sweepstakes winner in this year's Flower Show, donated many of his prize-winning plants to the Auctions, helping to ensure their success.

As usual the Board spent much of its time, under the able guidance of Treasurer Helen Bortvedt, crafting a budget for the next year. AGGS continues to be on strong financial footing. Membership in AGGS is increasing, and the dues increase will bring the price of membership more in line with the cost of publishing THE GLOXINIAN and other costs of membership benefits. In addition, the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund is providing income to help support the operations of the Society.

Through the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund, AGGS is helping support a number of worthwhile research projects. More research is being done on gesneriads than ever before. The budget approved by the Board includes funding to continue support of research while preserving the growth of the Research Endowment.

AGGS Dues Increase

The AGGS Membership has voted to ratify the dues increase, as recommended by the AGGS Board and published on page 11 of the Second Quarter 2003 issue of THE GLOXINIAN:

Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$35 (minimum)	Life	\$375
Family	\$26	Research	\$50 (minimum)		

Options for three-year memberships will increase proportionately and mailing costs will remain the same for outside the U.S. for the time being. This increase will be implemented starting in January 2004. Renewal or new memberships of any category or duration received prior to 2004 will be accepted at the current rates. If ever you contemplated upgrading your membership status to Life Membership or a Three-Year Membership, now is the time to capitalize on it ... before the rates increase. With the increase in dues, the Board decided that issues of THE GLOXINIAN published starting in 2004 will cost \$7 each when sold as back issues.

The Shopping Mall

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awarded Best Gesneriad
grown from seed from
the AGGS Seed Fund in
memory of Maryjane Evans

Seed Packets — \$1.50 each

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- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa (\$6.00 minimum)
- Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (non-U.S. orders may include International Postal Coupons or have the postage added to their credit card bill)
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

Seed Fund

Bob and Carol Connelly <Bob_Connelly@email.msn.com>
2391 Phillips Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2450

Not long after submitting the Seed Fund copy for the 3rd Quarter issue, we received word that Maryjane Evans had passed away. It was very difficult for us to think of something appropriate to write about her in the short period of time to make the extended deadline for that issue.

Maryjane meant so much to the Seed Fund, beyond her years running the Fund. Her participation in field collection of gesneriads, her behind the scenes work in growing gesneriads, her seemingly endless botanical knowledge, her attention to all the details of listing, storing and growing seeds, all were so important to us and the Seed Fund. She will always be remembered through the Seed Fund, but perhaps the greatest tribute to her memory is to keep the Fund strong through your donations of seed. Your contributions of seed to the Fund will become increasingly important as Maryjane was the single largest donor of seeds. We will miss her, but she will always be with us through the Seed Fund.

We just returned from another great convention in Sacramento and are still trying to catch up on filling seed orders. We seem to be getting more seed orders sent to us via registered mail, particularly from Asian countries. This does not speed up delivery of your order to us, and actually can slow it down if we have to make a special trip to the post office because we are not home when the postal carrier tries to deliver it. So far we have not had any problems receiving orders from anywhere via regular mail.

We would like to thank the most recent contributors to the Seed Fund for their generosity: Marlene Beam, Helen Bortvedt, Mary Bozoian, Allison Brigham, John L. Clark, Ray Coyle, Arlene Dewell, John Farina, Robert Hall, Kyle Hedberg, Lars Loercher, Carra O'Daniel, Ben Paternoster, Carolyn Ripps, Rob & Olive Ma Robinson, Al Romano, Carol Schreck, Peter Shalit, M. J. Tyler, Dr. Johannes Ulrich-Urban, and Linda Zillich.

ADDITIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Aeschynanthus evrardii</i> (B) | <i>Sinningia</i> sp. "Rio das Pedras" MP1094 |
| • <i>Columnnea</i> hybrids (orange) (B) | (F,P) |
| • <i>Columnnea</i> hybrids (red) (B) | <i>Sinningia</i> 'Ted Bona' × self (F,P) |
| • <i>Napeanthus macrostoma</i> (H,F,P) | <i>Sinningia</i> lavender/purple miniature |
| <i>Sinningia cardinalis</i> (pink) (D) | mix (F,P) |

DELETIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Briggsia aurantiaca</i> | <i>Sinningia aghensis</i> AC2356 |
| <i>Columnnea hispidia</i> | <i>Sinningia canescens</i> |
| <i>Gasteranthus crispus</i> USBRG98-033 | <i>Sinningia defoliata</i> |
| <i>Nematanthus fritschii</i> | <i>Sinningia douglasii</i> (rose/purple) |
| <i>Nematanthus jolyanus</i> (São Paulo) | <i>Sinningia leucotricha</i> 'English' |
| <i>Nematanthus tessmannii</i> GRF9912 | <i>Sinningia</i> 'Cheryl M.' × self |

A Capital Affair

JoAnne Martinez <4jam@gte.net>
809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613

After traveling for seven hours, I was excited to finally arrive in California's Capital City of Sacramento, home to this year's AGGS Convention and Flower Show. So many thoughts were flying around in my head: Who will win Best in Show? What new gesneriads will I see? How many plants would I buy? And would I have enough space to take them back home? To reach the Red Lion Inn you had to cut across the parking lot of Arden Mall which I thought was Garden Mall with the letter "G" missing – I guess you can tell that plants were on my mind. As soon as Carol Schreck and I arrived, we began seeing our gesneriad friends.

You needed a map to navigate the hotel as it had four separate buildings. One time when I thought I knew a shortcut from the main building to my room, I walked around outside for fifteen minutes before I finally asked an employee for help. Walking back to your room at night, you had to be careful not to step on the toads. And as Carol and I soon found out, in the mornings you had to dodge the sprinklers. I must say we outsmarted them every time, but we heard other conventioners were not so lucky.

Wednesday was filled with many of the usual activities including meetings for everyone. At the opening breakfast, Helen Freidberg greeted us all. We were then off to Judges Training School. Fortunately, Dale Martens was at the workshop to help the advanced judges tweak their skills in judging new plant material. She even distributed packets of seed for us to grow and bring to next year's convention. Susan Grose and Arleen Dewell were happy that many chapters sent their president or a representative to the Chapter Presidents' meeting. After introducing ourselves, we came up with some great ideas for future programs – one of my favorites was the Gesneriad Bingo program.

Newsletter editors and Gesneriphile enthusiasts had their special meetings to share their thoughts and ideas. And we can't leave out the future conventions meeting where valuable information and support was provided to the Long Island and Mt. Hood Chapters regarding their upcoming conventions. Helen announced that she is looking for a host chapter for the 2006



Conventioners attending Judging School with Ben Paternoster



Conventioneers enjoying the Thursday tour of Copia

Convention. Last but not least on Wednesday evening was the GHA meeting conducted by Dale Martens. New hybrids were shown as we all oohed and aahed. My favorites were *Kohleria* 'Texas Plum Puddin' and *Kohleria* 'Texas Rainbow', both of which are Dale's hybrids. Now that she has moved to Illinois, I wonder if anyone knows what prefix she will be using for her new hybrid names? After the program, tickets were drawn and we each received a cutting, tuber, or rhizome. Many thanks to Dale, Bill Price and all the others who donated the door prizes.

Thursday we were off to Napa Valley for our tour of Copia, the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts. We toured the three acres of gardens containing common and heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. Everything there is organically grown, and we even saw the rabbits they employ to help with their compost. Food from the gardens is used in their restaurant, Julia's Kitchen. We were all interested in their seed saving program in which valuable seeds are given to Copia to grow out, set seed, and then return the collected seed back to the seed bank. I had never heard of such a program. A group of about twenty participated in the wine tasting exhibit while the others visited the museum stores and exhibitions. Mollie Howell and I toured their exhibit on ancient vessels. These vessels were a few thousand years old and extremely interesting and artistic. After enjoying our box lunch in the company of Roger Wheeler, we boarded the buses once again for the second leg of our tour – to Morningsun Herb Farm where a great variety of herbs were available for purchase.

Meanwhile back at the hotel, Alan LaVergne and his volunteers were setting up the plant sale while Jeani Hatfield and her team were arranging tables and making preparations in the flower show room. Soon show entries began filling the Martinique Foyer. Paul Susi was also close by accepting donations for the much-anticipated silent and live auctions. That evening the line for early plant sales began forming around 8:45 p.m. as 110 of the 165 convention registrants were eligible for early entry this year. At 9:30 p.m. the doors opened and the room quickly filled with gesneriad addicts. I found a pink *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Helen' which I learned was a cross between *E.* 'Unpredictable Valley' and *E.* 'Helen O'. By 11:00 p.m., with exhaustion setting in, I went to my room and happily collapsed admiring the wonderful new additions to my collection.

Hard-working members of the Delta Chapter and the Convention team:



Oscar and Leona Faoro, Barbara Elkin, Doris Weaver, Carol Mark,
Patsy Boddy, Jeani Hatfield (left to right)



Mae Mendes



Alan & Debra LaVergne



Jon Dixon

Friday morning I was jolted from my sleep by our wake-up call at 6:00 a.m. We judges and clerks are a dedicated group, but thank goodness for strong Californian coffee. After our instructions, we entered the showroom to begin the task at hand. We finished judging the show as the first of our three lectures started. Ron Parsons featured slides of gesneriads, orchids, and other miniature houseplants. At the Annual Meeting held during lunch, we honored the newest chapter to join our family – the Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society. After the business meeting was completed, we all adjourned to the second lecture where Bill Price showed us how he grows gesneriads in Vancouver, Canada. We saw slides of almost every room in his house, and guess what? There were beautiful gesneriads growing in every room. Some were grown with natural light and some on light stands. He even had a greenhouse. And if he needed more space, Bill took his plants to the office. Who says you can't work and play at the same time? I have never seen so many beautiful gesneriads. If there is such a thing as a "Gesneriad Heaven", it must look like Bill's house.



The Flower Show

The show room was now open ... and what a beautiful show! The *Sinningia* tubers were impressive in their size and shape, with many grown by Alan LaVergne. I wonder what care they require and what is their period of dormancy? Now that could be a topic for a seminar next year. I have never seen so many entries that could easily be in contention for Best in Show. *Gesneria rupicola*, a species which I had never seen, was covered with orange blossoms. I think I might be able to grow it in my landscape in Florida. I just need for Bill to set seed and send it to the Seed Fund. Another stunning Bill Price entry was *Aeschynanthus humilis* covered with red blossoms. In the *Columnnea* class were two near-perfect specimens – Olive Ma Robinson's *Pentandenia orientandina* full of berries and Bill Price's *Dalbergaria sanguinea*. I can't leave out Bill's stunning Best in Show entry of *Titanotrichum oldhamii*. I think he said he had been growing it several years before it bloomed. Can you guess who won Sweepstakes in Horticulture? I again visited the sales room, conveniently located across from the show room, because by now I had added to my must-have list. That evening, the Awards Banquet was staged poolside. Appropriately, as Jeanne and Michael were announcing ALL of Bill Price's awards, fireworks could be seen in the background. Bill definitely earned the title "Iron Man Bill" for driving over 900 miles to Sacramento with his award-winning entries.



Conventioneers enjoying the Awards Banquet outdoors under the tent

Saturday's wake up call was at 5:30 a.m., even earlier than on Friday. No one can complain of being bored at an AGGS Convention. Carol and I have a tradition regarding picture-taking of the show. She takes pictures of all the first place exhibits and I write their names on a schedule she has printed. Slides are made, and later we share the convention show with our chapter members. Just as we were finishing, Ben Paternoster began the flower show judging critique. Valuable comments and information were shared. At breakfast we honored our Host Chapter, the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society. Their time and commitment to this wonderful show and convention was appreciated by all.

The third and last lecture was presented by Michael Kartuz. We enjoyed seeing the variety of gesneriads he has grown during his forty years living both in the Northeast and now in California. Many were his own hybrids. There was just enough time after the lecture to visit the sales room and check on our bids for the silent auction. As 11:30 a.m. approached, the serious bidders were standing close by with pencils in hand ready to increase their bids. After lunch, the second half of the live auction offered new hybrids and several show plants. Bidders dueled for Dale's basket of six new hybrids. Peter Shalit's new hybrid, *Chirita* 'Vertigo', interested many bidders. Being a *Chirita* lover, I really wanted to win that bid. Dale outbid everyone for Bill's show plant of *Aeschynanthus humilis*. She's taking it home for the hummingbirds to enjoy, but I wondered how she was going to transport it on the plane. As the plant sale was coming to a close, a 50% discount was announced enticing the bargain hunters to make one last purchase.

Our final convention event was a train ride on the Yolo Short Line Steam Train. For our safety, the El Dorado outlaws, dressed in authentic cowboy garb, were our escorts. During the BBQ buffet we experienced reenactments of the Wild Wild West. We were even part of a train robbery on our ride back to the buses. Arriving safely back at the hotel, tired and sleepy, we said our good-byes and wished everyone a safe trip back home. As sad as it was to see the convention end and our friends leave, one could sense the energy building within us in anticipation of next year's convention on Long Island.



JoAnne Martinez (far left) and other conventioners enjoying the BBQ buffet

Coming Events

October 18-19 — Illinois —
Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
fall display and sale at the
Friendship Park Conservatory, 395
Algonquin Road, Des Plaines.
Saturday and Sunday 12:00 noon to
3:00 pm. For information, call 847-
298-3500.

November 1-2 — New Jersey —
TriState African Violet Council
annual judged show and sale at the
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East
Hanover Ave., Morristown. Saturday
1:30 to 5:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am
to 4:00 pm. Contact Judy Padalino
<jpadalino@msn.com> (973-361-
4529).



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2003 Convention Flower Show Awards

Colleen Turley <awards@aggs.org>
8404 W. Harrison Ct., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1905

I am pleased to report the following winners from the 2003 Convention Flower Show held in Sacramento, California. I am deeply grateful to all the award donors for their generosity which enables our Society to recognize the exceptional plants and exhibits each year. I also owe Jeanne Katzenstein and Michael Riley my deepest gratitude for covering my duties at convention this year, as David, Nolan and I were unable to attend. I am certain they covered my functions with exceptional style and grace. Thank you! I missed seeing the show, catching up with old and new friends, and the honor of presenting these awards to the deserving recipients.

The following donations were not used and the monies shall go toward the Color Photo Fund for THE GLOXINIAN: Best New Species not in flower, an award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans; Best Lesser-Known Gesneriad not in flower, an award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in loving memory of Maryjane Evans; Best Commercial Exhibit, an award from Allannah's Greenhouses; Best Miniature Sinningia, an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Marty & Zelda Mines; and an award from Carolyn Conlin-Lane.

SPECIAL AWARDS

SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Bill Price for 12 blue ribbons, a cash award from the New England Chapter in memory of Jessie Crisafulli

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Barbara Elkin for 3 blue ribbons, a cash award from the Liberty Bell Chapter in loving memory of Laura Shannon

SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC – to Barbara Elkin for 5 blue ribbons, a cash award from the National Capital Area Chapter



Barbara Elkin was awarded Sweepstakes in Artistic and Runner-Up to Sweepstakes in Horticulture



Bill Price was awarded Sweepstakes in Horticulture for 12 blue ribbons, Best in Show and Runner-Up to BIS

Some of Bill Price's award-winning entries:



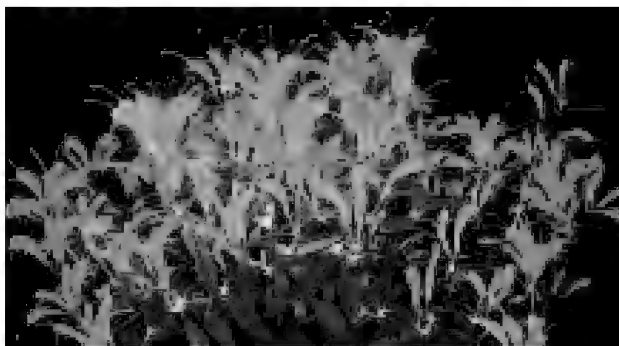
*Dalbergaria
sanguinea*



*Gesneria
rupicola*



*Chirita
dielsii*



*Aeschynanthus
humilis*

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC – to L. Mae Mendes for 3 blue ribbons, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of Frances Batcheller

BEST IN SHOW – to Bill Price for *Titanotrichum oldhamii*, a plaque from the Long Island Chapter in memory of Maryjane Evans

RUNNER-UP TO BEST IN SHOW – to Bill Price for *Dalbergaria sanguinea*, a cash award from the American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco

BEST ARTISTIC – to Paul Kroll for his challenge class arrangement "Roaring Camp", a cash award from the Peninsula Gesneriad Society in memory of Doris Cormier

BEST IN THE ARTS – to Deb Weinman for her beaded vase, a cash award from the Culver City Gesneriad Society in memory of Berniece Kennerson

BEST NEW WORLD TUBEROUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Barbara Elkin for *Sinningia leucotricha*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

BEST NEW WORLD RHIZOMATOUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Bill Price for *Achimenes candida*, a cash award from the Twin Cities Chapter

BEST NEW WORLD FIBROUS-ROOTED HYBRID IN FLOWER – to Barbara Elkin for *Episcia 'Cleopatra'*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

BEST NEW WORLD FIBROUS-ROOTED SPECIES IN FLOWER – to Bill Price for *Dalbergaria sanguinea*, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in memory of Hans Wiehler

BEST OLD WORLD HYBRID IN FLOWER – to Alan LaVergne for *Streptocarpus 'Lone Jack'*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society

BEST OLD WORLD SPECIES IN FLOWER – to Bill Price for *Aeschynanthus humilis*, a cash award from Susan Grose in memory of Maryjane Evans and Hans Wiehler

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN FOR ORNAMENTAL QUALITIES OTHER THAN FLOWERS – to Barbara Elkin for *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, a cash award from the Gateway West Gesneriad Society

BEST NEW GESNERIAD – to Dale Martens for *Kohleria 'Texas Rainbow'*, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in memory of Maryjane Evans

BEST LESSER-KNOWN GESNERIAD – to Bill Price for *Titanotrichum oldhamii*, a cash award from the Northern Illinois Chapter

BEST COLLECTION OF GESNERIADS – to Jeani Hatfield for her *Nautilocalyx* Collection, a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in memory of Maryjane Evans and in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY A NOVICE – to Margaret Gibson for *Streptocarpus 'Ice Berg Blues'*, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans, good friend and mentor to us all

BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT AND/OR GROWING MATERIAL – to Barbara Elkin for "Camellia City", a cash award from the Culver City Gesneriad Society in memory of Bob Lindgren

BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT MATERIAL – to Paul Kroll, for "Fishing for Gold", a cash award from the Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group

BEST ARRANGEMENT OF GROWING GESNERIADS – to Paul Kroll for "Little Gems", a cash award from Alan LaVergne in memory of Hans Wiehler

BEST GROWING MATERIAL PLANTING – to L. Mae Mendes for her tray landscape, a cash award from the Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society in memory of Laura Shannon

BEST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – to Dale Martens for her black and white print of *Sinningia 'Texas Zebra'*, an endowed cash award from the Crisafulli family in memory of Jessie and Anthony Crisafulli

BEST CRAFT – to Deb Weinman for her beaded vase, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of the judges, clerks, and exhibitors at the 2003 Convention

BEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT – to Debra LaVergne for her Educational Display on *Sinningia* Tubers, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Stanley Schwartz

BEST COLUMNEA – to Katherine Henwood for *Columnnea purpusii*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Miriam Goldberg

BEST EPISCIA – to Kathleen Roubal for *Episcia 'Unpredictable Helen'*, a cash award from Joyce Myers, Nancy Gilson, Karen Panek, Marcia Jacobs, Marjorie Bullard, and Lee Stradley, in memory of Noel Williams

BEST MICRO-MINIATURE SINNINGIA – to Mary Bozoian for *Sinningia* sp. "Rio das Pedras", a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Susan Schlieder

BEST STREPTOCARPUS – to Alan LaVergne for *Streptocarpus* 'Lone Jack', a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Irwin Rosenblum

BEST CHIRITA – to Bill Price for *Chirita walkerae*, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Monte Watler in appreciation for his tireless assistance and support

BEST SCENTED GESNERIAD – to Bill Price for *Achimenes candida*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Jim Fryer

BEST RECENTLY REGISTERED – to Arleen Dewell for *Chirita* 'Cynthia', a cash award from the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association

BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY THE EXHIBITOR FROM AGGS SEED FUND SEED – to Bill Price for *Sinningia piresiana*, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Maryjane Evans

JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD – to Bill Price for *Chirita dielsii*, a cash award from Ken and Vera Parker in honor of Ruth Jo McCoy, founder of the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society

JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD – to Peter Shalit for *Chirita* 'Vertigo', a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Anne Crowley

JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD – to Olive Ma Robinson for *Pentadenia orientandina*, a cash award from Hans and Everdina Inpijn

Division I – HORTICULTURE – Class Awards

SECTION A – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberous

Class 3A – *Sinningia leucotricha* – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Monte Watler

Class 3B – *Sinningia piresiana* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society

Class 4 – *Sinningia* 'Amizade' – to Carol Mark, a cash award from Karyn Cichocki in memory of Laura Shannon

Class 5 – *Sinningia* species 'Doris' – to Jon Dixon, a cash award from the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York

SECTION B – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 8 – *Achimenes candida* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Dale Martens

Class 10 – *Kohleria spicata* 'MacDougal' – to Bill Price, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Hans Wiehler

Class 11 – *Smithiantha* 'Speckled Salmon' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Carolyn Conlin-Lane

Class 12 – *Phinaea albolineata* – to Mary Bozoian, a cash award from Dolly Crowder in memory of Marna Striépens

Class 13 – *Niphaea oblonga* – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Nellie Sleeth in memory of Hans Wiehler

SECTION C – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Fibrous-Rooted

Class 15 – *Dalbergaria sanguinea* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Lauray of Salisbury

Class 16A – *Alsobia dianthiflora* – to Ben Paternoster, a cash award from the Heart of America Chapter

Class 16B – *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from Carol Callaghan in memory of Laura Shannon

Class 17 – *Gesneria rupincola* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in memory of Maryjane Evans

Class 18 – *Nematanthus gregarius* 'Golden West' – to Katherine Henwood, a cash award from Lauray of Salisbury

Class 19 – *Paradrymonia ciliosa* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Grow and Study Chapter

SECTION D – Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 20 – *Aeschynanthus humilis* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society

Class 21A – *Chirita gemella* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in memory of Emma Lahr



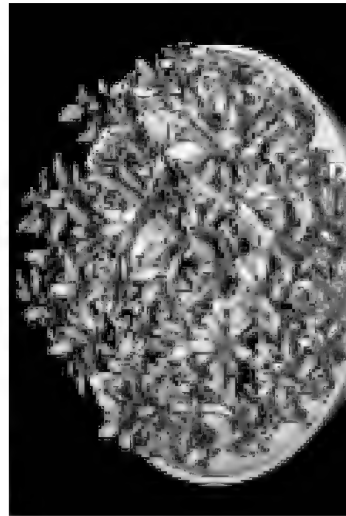
Sinningia 'Amizade'
grown by Carol Mark



Sinningia leucotricha
grown by Barbara Elkin



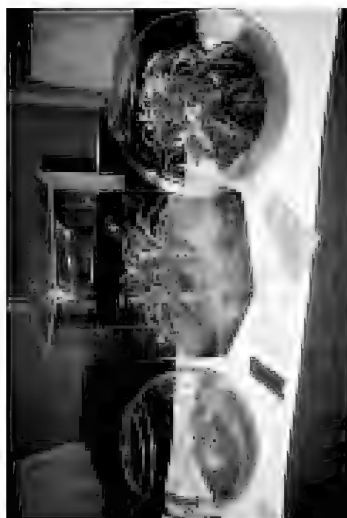
Chirita 'Moonlight'
grown by Patsy Boddy



Episcia 'Silver Skies'
grown by Vera Parker



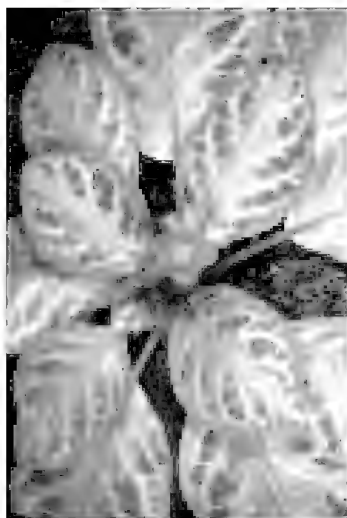
Streptocarpus 'Lone Jack'
grown by Alan LaVergne



Nautilocalyx Collection
grown by Jeani Hatfield



African Violet Needlework
created by Leona Faoro



Episcia 'Cleopatra'
grown by Barbara Elkin



Sinningia sp. 'Doris'
grown by Jon Dixon



Tray Landscape
created by Mae Mendes



Chirita fimbripala 'Wuhan'
grown by Lynn Lombard

- Class 21B – *Chirita walkerae* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Frances Batcheller
- Class 22 – *Chirita* 'Kitaguni' – to Jon Dixon, a cash award from Bonita Hutcheson in memory of David Jepsen
- Class 23 – *Petrocosmea nervosa* – to Bob Clark, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Laura Shannon
- Class 24 – *Saintpaulia rupicola* – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans
- Class 28 – *Saintpaulia* 'Tensie's Trail' – to Bill Price, a gift certificate from Violet Ventures in memory of Dave Tyler
- Class 30 – *Streptocarpus haygarthii* – to Katherine Henwood, a cash award from Wanda McNair
- Class 31 – *Streptocarpus* 'Lone Jack' – to Alan LaVergne, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in memory of Maryjane Evans
- Class 32 – *Rhabdothamnus solandri* – to Patrick Jesse Pons-Worley, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of AGGS Chapters and Affiliates

SECTION E – Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

- Class 33A – *Chirita fimbrispala* 'Wuhan' – to Lynn Lombard, a cash award from the Puget Sound Chapter in memory of Dave Tyler
- Class 33B – *Chirita* 'Moonlight' – to Patsy Boddy, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Jo Hawley
- Class 34 – *Episcia* 'Silver Skies' – to Vera Parker, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Phyllis Rosenbluth
- Class 35 – *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Helen' – to Kathleen Roubal, a cash award from the Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society
- Class 36 – *Petrocosmea begoniifolia* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Heart of America Chapter
- Class 37 – *Nematanthus gregarius* 'Dibley's Gold' – to Jacquie Eisenhut, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker
- Class 38A – *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora* – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Laura Shannon
- Class 38B – *Sinningia leucotricha* – to Jon Dixon, a cash award from the New Jersey Chapter in memory of Laura Shannon
- Class 38C – *Corytoplectus capitatus* – to Katherine Henwood, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker
- Class 39 – *Nematanthus* 'Othello' – to Alan LaVergne, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in loving memory of Maryjane Evans

SECTION F – New Gesneriads

- Class 40 – *Sinningia* sp. "Rio das Pedras" – to Mary Bozoian, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Maryjane Evans
- Class 42 – *Kohleria* 'Texas Plum Puddin' – to Bill Price, a cash award from Alan LaVergne in honor and memory of the caretakers of the Seed Fund, past and present
- Class 43 – *Kohleria* 'Texas Rainbow' – to Dale Martens, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in loving memory of Maryjane Evans

SECTION G – Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

- Class 44 – *Titanotrichum oldhamii* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Alan LaVergne in honor of the donors to the Seed Fund

SECTION H – Collections of Gesneriads

- Class 46 – *Nautilocalyx* Collection – to Jeani Hatfield, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Laura Shannon

SECTION I – Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

- Class 48 – *Streptocarpus* seedling 'Texas Komachi' × 'Texas Hot Chili' – to Margaret Gibson, a cash award from the Puget Sound Chapter in memory of Dave Tyler
- Class 49 – *Streptocarpus* 'Ice Berg Blues' – to Margaret Gibson, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Irwin Rosenblum

Division II – ARTISTIC – Class Awards

SECTION J – Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Material

Class 51 – "Camellia City" – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Society

Class 52 – "Old Town" – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from the Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society

Class 53 – "Sunset Limited" – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Monte Watler

SECTION K – Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

Class 54 – "Jazz Jubilee" – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from the Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group

Class 55 – "The Cathedral" – to L. Mae Mendes, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Earl Deroche

Class 56 – "Fishing for Gold" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Molly Schneider

Class 57 – Challenge Class "Roaring Camp" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Alan LaVergne in honor of the donors to the Seed Fund

SECTION L – Arrangement of Growing Material

Class 60 – "Little Gems" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in memory of Kibby Clayton

SECTION M – Growing Material in a Planting

Class 61 – Terrarium (straight-sided) – to L. Mae Mendes, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker

Class 63 – Tray Landscape – to L. Mae Mendes, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Lavia Berland

Class 64 – Natural Garden – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from Dolly Crowder in memory of Marna Striopens

Class 65 – *Columnnea linearis* 'Purple Robe' (bonsai) – to Bill Price, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in honor of Monte Watler

Class 66 – Gesneriad in Other Container – to Jacquie Eisenhut, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Dave Tyler

Division III – THE ARTS – Class Awards

SECTION O – Photography

Class 68 – Color Transparency of Calyx-double *Sinningia* seedling – to Dale Martens, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Tony Crisafulli

Class 69 – Color Print of *Kohleria* seedling – to Dale Martens, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Jo Hawley

Class 70 – B&W Print of *Sinningia* 'Texas Zebra' – to Dale Martens, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Dave Tyler

SECTION P – Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 72 – Cross-stitch African Violet on Shirt – to Barbara Elkin, a cash award from the Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society

Class 73A – Framed Cross-stitch African Violet – to Leona Faoro, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Tony and Jessie Crisafulli

Class 73B – Beaded Vase – to Deb Weinman, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Earl Deroche

Class 73C – Pressed Flower Picture – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York

Division IV – COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL – Class Awards

SECTION R – Educational

Class 75 – Exhibit on *Sinningia* Tubers – to Debra LaVergne, a cash award from the African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York



Best Artistic Arrangement
"Roaring Camp" challenge
class creation by Paul Kroll



Best New Hybrid
Kohleria 'Texas Rainbow'
grown by Dale Martens



Left:
Best Entry by a Novice
awarded to Margaret Gibson for
Streptocarpus 'Ice Berg Blues'

Below:
Best Educational Exhibit
awarded to Debra LaVergne
for "Sinningia Tubers"



In closing, I would like to mention some exciting new developments. At the end of the 2002 Convention, the commitment by the New England chapter to donate, in perpetuity, the Award for Sweepstakes in Horticulture in memory of Jessie Crisafulli was voted into the Standing Rules by the Board (see the article on page 14 of the Second Quarter 2003 issue of TG).

In the Spring of 2003, the Crisafulli family continued their generosity by offering to donate an endowment to fund the Best In Photography award, in perpetuity, in memory of Jessie and Anthony Crisafulli. Frances Crisafulli felt that it was through photography that Jessie interested Tony in her horticultural endeavors, and it would please her to honor her parents' memory with this exceptional donation. Again, this was voted into the Standing Rules by the Board at the 2003 Convention. In order to facilitate future donations of endowments, I will be submitting to the Board, for their approval, a standard procedure to insure a consistent and simple process that will allow all endowments to be easily incorporated into our treasury and awards.

I would like to again recognize this year's winners of these two special awards – the first recipients of these perpetual memorials: SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Bill Price for 12 blue ribbons, a cash award from the New England Chapter in memory of Jessie Crisafulli; and



BEST IN PHOTOGRAPHY – to Dale Martens for her black and white print of *Sinningia* 'Texas Zebra', an endowed cash award from the Crisafulli family in memory of Jessie and Anthony Crisafulli.

Color Photo Sponsorships in Memory of Maryjane Evans

- Photo on page 8 sponsored by Ronald L. Robinson
- Photos on page 17 sponsored by Thomas Talpey, Frances Batcheller, Nancy Leck
- Photos on page 33 sponsored by Thomas & Glenda Smillie, The Hansbury Family, Joseph L. Grier
- Photo on page 53 sponsored by Maureen Krumman

Awards of Appreciation

Molly Schneider

608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205-1314

A maximum of three Awards of Appreciation certificates are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. Criteria for the selection of recipients include importance of service rendered, length of service, chairing of projects, diligent behind-the-scenes work, faithful contributions of gesneriad articles in publications, and any other accomplishments of merit. Our recipients this year easily meet the requirements of important service to AGGS and the world of gesneriads for many years plus significant contributions of gesneriad articles in publications.

Bill Burtt of Edinburgh, Scotland, will be 90 years old by the time you read this. For his over 50 years of research at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the Gesneriaceae Workshop held there last Fall was dedicated to him. In 1930, Bill started as a temporary technical assistant in the herbarium at Kew Gardens, and three years later he was appointed Assistant Botanist in the office of the Director, Sir Arthur Hill. Interested in Gesneriaceae, specifically in the different behavior of the two cotyledons in the genus *Streptocarpus*, Hill introduced his assistant to Gesneriaceae. In 1951, Bill transferred to the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh where he was left to choose his own research. He turned to Asiatic Gesneriaceae because the garden had a good collection from the Himalayas and Southwest China. He published the first of a series of papers, "Studies in the Gesneriaceae of the Old World" in 1954. Bill traveled to Sarawak, Malaysia, in 1962 with Paddy Woods, known for his important work on *Aeschynanthus*. A few years later, he made his first visit to South Africa to work with Olive Hilliard on *Streptocarpus*. Together in 1971 they published the first monograph of a single genus in the family Gesneriaceae – *Streptocarpus*, *An African Plant Study*. Bill continued to work on Southeast Asian Gesneriaceae with Professor Anton Weber of the University of Vienna, as well as work on the genus *Agalmyla* with Olive Hilliard in addition to research on Compositaceae, the Umbelliferaceae of Southern Africa, and Dierama. His current work with Dr. Hilliard is the *Cyrtandra* of Borneo, an elaborate project on this large and previously unaddressed genus. Bill Burtt has been a great contributor to the members of AGGS through his dedication, support and publication in THE GLOXINIAN and elsewhere ... and he is as warm and friendly as the plants he studies.

Peter Shalit of Seattle, Washington, admits that gesneriads had a great influence on his life since childhood. His first exposure to gesneriads was in New Jersey when he watered the plants in Jack Unterecker's light garden while he was on vacation. Jack was then President of the Greater New York Chapter of AGGS. Peter soon joined the chapter and started his own light garden. This interest led to his attending Cornell University where he majored in Biology (Botany) and got to know Margaret Stone and Hal Moore. After deciding to become a plant breeder, he moved to Seattle to obtain a Ph.D. in Genetics, but during that time decided that he liked people even more than plants. So after completing his Ph.D., he went on to Medical School. He resumed gesneriad activities when his medical training was completed in 1990. Peter has been President of three AGGS Chapters: The

Greater New York Chapter (while a high school senior), the former Central New York Chapter (while a junior at college), and the Puget Sound Chapter (while a graduate student in Seattle). He currently serves as AGGS Recording Secretary, Director, Chair of the Review Committee, and is also on the staff of THE GLOXINIAN. He has been a member of the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society since 1977, is a founding member of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association, and a Life Member of AGGS. He recently wrote the gesneriad chapter for *Breeding Ornamental Plants*, a recently published book from Timber Press. In addition to his interest in hybridizing Sinningias, and recently Chiritas, Peter also enjoys gardening outdoors, bicycling to work every day, and traveling.



Bill Burt



Peter Shalit

Past Recipients of Awards of Appreciation

1977 – Paul Arnold	1986 – Margaret Belanger	1995 – Mary Bozoian
Charlotte Rowe	Jimmy Dates	Ben Paternoster
1978 – Frances Batcheller	Isla Montgomery	Monte Watler
Carol Saylor	1987 – Joseph Batcheller	1996 – Celine Chase
1979 – Florence Messick	Ted Bona	Betty Tapping
Mel Sater	Ruth Webster	Beth Weissman
Martin Tanner	1988 – Maryann Delaune	1997 – Maryjane Evans
Renee White	Dr. Hans Wiehler	Ron Myhr
1980 – Albert Buell	Felicia McCann	Darrell Trout
Erica Clayberg	1989 – Judy Becker	1998 – David Turley
Emma Lahr	Anthony Crisafulli	Dave Tyler
Ruth & Lyndon Lyon	Jessie Crisafulli	M.J. Tyler
1981 – Alice Courage	1990 – Chris Kunhardt	1999 – Dr. Miriam Denham
Helen Kavanaugh	Michael A. Riley	Bonita Hutcheson
Henry Peterson	Nellie Sleeth	Elizabeth Varley
Laura Progebin	Ellen Todd	2000 – Marlene Beam
1982 – Michael Kartuz	1991 – Earl Deroche	Ingrid Lindskog
1983 – Dr. Robert E. Lee	Molly Schneider	2001 – Jon Dixon
Dr. Margaret H. Stone	Alan Wojcik	Elvin McDonald
1984 – S. Cleopatra Kohm	1992 – Diantha Buell	2002 – Virginie F. Elbert
David R. Masterson	Anne Crowley	Mauro Peixoto
Martin Mines	1993 – Stanley Schwartz	Leong Tuck Lock
1985 – C. A. Cruikshank	Margaret Waugespack	
Lee Linett	1994 – Jeanne Katzenstein	
Dr. Laurence E. Skog		

Note: At the 2003 AGGS Convention, the Board approved honorary Life Memberships for all past and future recipients of Awards of Appreciation. In addition to those recipients who already were Life Members, Celine Chase, Miriam Denham, Michael Kartuz, Ron Myhr, Nellie Sleeth, Monte Watler, as well as Bill Burt and Peter Shalit, now are AGGS Life Members.

Convention 2003 — What a Capital Affair!

Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>
#311-2316 Wall St., Vancouver, BC V5L 4Y1 Canada

Wow! Didn't we have a busy, action-packed week in California? Delegates representing twenty-four AGGS Chapters from Arizona to Washington, Canada to Sweden, and members-at-large from Great Britain and Japan converged on Sacramento the first week of July. We renewed old acquaintances, welcomed new faces, exchanged countless seeds, tubers and cuttings and talked, talked, talked gesneriads in the warm California sun. I so enjoyed finally meeting some of the members of the Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society which was presented its Charter last year in Morristown. Kathleen Autret, Joan and Charles Dixon and Deb Weinman, to name a few, traveled to California from Tucson for their first AGGS Convention. What a happy, friendly group they are! I'm certain their monthly meetings must not only be very educational but lots of fun, too. In the not too distant future, my hope is that we will soon welcome a second AGGS Chapter to Arizona – this time from the Phoenix area. On behalf of the Desert Sun AV Society, Dariane Joshlin contacted me earlier this year expressing interest in starting an AGGS Chapter there.

The Chapters and Affiliates meeting, hosted by AGGS President Susan Grose and myself, was the most well attended in recent memory. Chapter Presidents or their delegates enjoyed getting together informally at convention. We discussed education programs for monthly meetings and ideas for finding and keeping new chapter members. Helen Bortvedt deftly explained our liability insurance policy that protects chapters holding meetings and shows in community rooms, shopping malls, public meeting halls, etc. Attendees were reminded to complete the Chapters Report each year and return it as soon as possible to AGGS Corresponding Secretary Fay Wagman. The information contained therein is vital! We use it to keep the Chapters and Affiliates information that appears in *THE GLOXINIAN* and on the AGGS web page as up to date as possible. You can help us fulfill this task by completing the report and sending it back promptly.

Did you know that chapters can post their meeting dates and programs on the AGGS web site? Currently, about twenty-one chapters have taken advantage of this service, but only four or five of you regularly update the information posted there. Given the number of "hits" on our web page, this is a great way to get some free publicity for your chapter and let others know where you are and when you meet. Do you have computer-savvy members in your group? If they are interested in trying their hand at designing a web page for your chapter, perhaps it could reside on the AGGS web site. The Toronto Gesneriad Society has taken advantage of this perk and, as a result,

has increased their exposure and substantially swelled their membership roster. Why not take a moment to visit <www.aggs.org>, click on the Local Chapters link and send in those updates? There you will also find a link to post publicity for and information about your upcoming chapter shows.

I would also like to thank those of you who responded to my request to include me on the mailing lists for your chapters' newsletters. I do read each and every one, cover to cover, and through your newsletters keep in touch with each chapter's activities throughout the year. I receive *Gesneriad News* from Long Island, *Glox News* from the Greater New York Chapter, *Petal Tones* from National Capital, *Bells and Slippers* from the New England Chapter, *Gesneriad Insights* from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society, *Gesneri-Eds* from Tennessee, *Gesneriastnytt* from Sweden, and newsletters from the Toronto Gesneriad Society in Ontario, Canada, and from the Mount Hood Chapter in Oregon, as well as *Gesneriad Soundings* from Puget Sound in Washington State. Recently, Irwin Wagman has started emailing me the text of the newsletter of the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York – a great idea! Thanks again to all of you for keeping me in mind.

Finally, my convention experience would not be complete if I didn't get to do something each year that I enjoy more than anything else in the world. What might that be, you ask? Why, introducing a brand new AGGS Chapter to the assembled membership, of course, and I was not disappointed this year! I am honoured to report that the Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society has become our thirty-eighth AGGS Chapter and our fifth in New York State. Congratulations to Chapter President Lee Stradley and to all the chapter members for a job well done! I know you will continue to grow and learn about gesneriads, and through your enthusiasm spread the word to others in your region about our extraordinary plant family.

Are you interested in starting a new chapter or gesneriad interest group in your area? Do you know people who are? Why not get in touch with me? Remember, it only takes ten or more of you to form a chapter and between three and nine to affiliate. Don't be shy. Join a chapter or an affiliate ... or better yet, start a new one! I would be delighted to assist you.



Lee Stradley accepting the charter for the new Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Chapter from Chapters and Affiliates Chair Arleen Dewell

The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Auction

Paul Susi <captaur@optonline.net>
6 Upper Lane, Centerport, NY 11721-1125

It is always gratifying to see the generosity of AGGS members in action, and this year's auction was no exception. Both the Friday awards banquet and the Saturday luncheon live auctions featured quality items, including a number of flower show award-winning entries and several new hybrids. As always, we welcome your suggestions for changes and improvements in the auction process, and hope that the entire process went smoothly for everyone this year.

There were a number of highlights in both live auctions. Michael Riley's donation of a Paxton print of *Gesnera mollis* (now known as *Kohleria hirsuta*), two *Streptocarpus* seed collections donated by Jaco Truter of South Africa (via Dale Martens), and several of Bill Price's collections of *Petrocosmea* and *Sinningia* cuttings were the big winners at the Friday banquet. On Saturday, we were treated to Dale Martens' donation of a collection of five of her hybrids including *Kohleria* 'Texas Plum Puddin' and *Achimenes* 'Texas Spotted Leopard'. We were also very fortunate to have a number of donations from Bill Price, Mary Bozoian and Peter Shalit of both show plants and cuttings. Bill's donations of his plants of *Aeschynanthus humilis* (Best Old Word Species), *Chirita dielsii*, and *Achimenes* 'Texas Polar Bear', and cuttings from *Titanotrichum oldhamii* (Best In Show) and *Dalbergaria sanguinea* (Best New World Fibrous-Rooted Species) among others, were big attention-getters. A special treat was Mary's last-minute donation of her show plant of *Chirita involu-crata*. But probably the high point of the live auction was the bidding war generated by Peter Shalit's starter plants of his new hybrid, *Chirita* 'Vertigo', and his show plant of the same hybrid. The bidding on all of these items jumped by leaps and bounds, generating almost \$500 in donations and bringing the auction to a dizzying conclusion.

Thanks for the success of the auction goes to the bidders, who added \$3,115 to the Fund this year; the Auction Committee – Randy Baron, Doris Brownlie, Bob Clark, Mollie Howell (who tried her hand at auctioneering for the first time), JoAnne Martinez, Bill Price (auctioneer extraordinaire), Michael Riley, Molly Schneider and Daphne Yaremko – all of whom helped to bring the auction to you; and the 23 AGGS members and friends (listed below) who donated 105 items to the silent and live auctions.

Carol Ann Bonner	Susan Grose	Carolyn Ripps
Mary Bozoian	Katherine Henwood	Molly Schneider
Norma Chenkin	Paul Kroll	Peter Shalit
Karyn Cichocki	Carolyn Conlin-Lane	Jaco Truter
Bob Clark	Dale Martens	M. J. Tyler
Leslie Cox	Stephen Phillips	New England Chapter
Jon Dixon	Bill Price	Island Treasures,
Barbara Elkin	Michael Riley	Staten Island, NY



Toshijiri Okuto
proud auction winner



Bill Price
Auctioneer

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How I Grow *Titanotrichum oldhamii*

Bill Price <billprice@shaw.ca>
2909 Mathers Ave., West Vancouver, BC V7V 2J7 Canada

When Paul Kroll gave me half of the rhizome from his plant of *Titanotrichum oldhamii* about three years ago, I was primarily intrigued with its name! I just had to try growing a plant with such an evocative name and had great hopes of its growing to the ceiling! This 1/2" rhizome sprouted quite readily and soon formed a small flower spike. I thought "what a great plant – there will be flowers out of a two-inch pot". Then lesson number one: flower spikes from immature plants usually will abort and produce large quantities of tiny seed-like propagules. Thankfully I saved these, as when the parent rhizome went into dormancy, it died when I let it dry out.

A sowing of propagules resulted in numerous tiny plantlets that I then started transplanting into successively larger pots as they grew. I also came to realize then that this plant, although rhizomatous, dislikes any long-term drying out, even when dormant.

Over the years, I learned that this species is native to Taiwan and prefers a cool environment with high light levels. I also learned that it will grow well outdoors and may indeed be hardy in milder areas of North America. I will be growing some in an east-facing sheltered bed this summer to test its hardiness here on the West Coast.

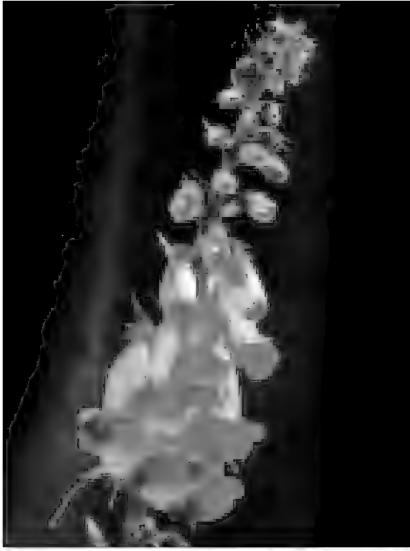
By growing it under a four-tube fluorescent light fixture, on 12 hours per day, it went through two growth cycles per year, each time getting larger but still producing flower stalks that would convert to propagules.

The soil mix I use is a very "open" one, roughly 1/3 each by volume of perlite, vermiculite and New Zealand sphagnum moss. I keep the mix constantly moist, even when the top growth dies back, and weekly use 1/4-strength of a variety of fertilizers. The temperature range is 17°-21°C in winter and 19°-25°C in the summer. Good air circulation is maintained by numerous small fans running constantly in the growing area.

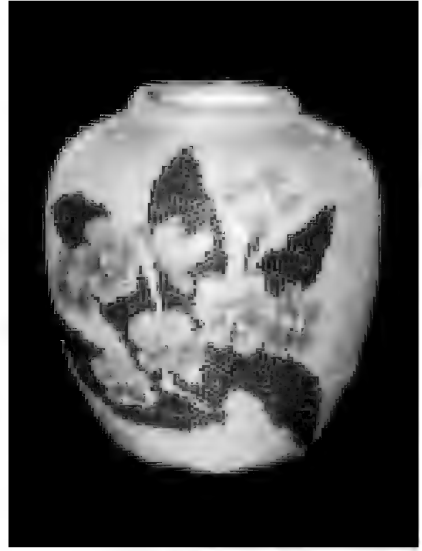
In March, the shoots that were produced were distinctly larger than last year and it soon became apparent that the plant was now mature enough to flower. This was very exciting as I had watched several previous flower stalks develop only to later be disappointed as they stopped developing. In April I transplanted it from a 4" to a 5" pot, placing it deeply in the pot and staking the developing bloom spike.

The flower spike elongated quite a bit before the first blossoms opened in late May. The beautiful tubular blossoms, dark burgundy-red inside and deep yellow outside, were well worth the wait! They tended to all face in one direction and continued to open in succession up the stalk while the lower ones would drop cleanly, leaving an attractive yellow pistil. At that time, I never had a thought that it might still be in bloom for the convention.

As the month of June progressed, I realized that it might indeed be a "show possibility". So into the car it went with the other hopefuls for the trek south. With its preference for a cool environment, the 16-hour driving trip to Sacramento and the warm hotel room were not to its liking either, and the plant dropped several blooms in protest. Thankfully, though, enough buds opened up before the show, and I was totally pleased to see how well it did!



Titanotrichum oldhamii
Best in Show



Beaded Vase
Best in the Arts

The Creation of My Beaded Vase

Deb Weinman <debw@dakotacom.net>
4587 N. Avenida del Cazador, Tucson, AZ 85718

The technique I used to create the beaded vase is the "peyote stitch". This stitch is a Native American type of beadwork that has been used traditionally for the covering of sacred items used in ceremonies. I learned to do peyote about ten years ago from a wonderful woman named Hasha Goodblanket. This stitch creates a beautiful fabric and can be done to create a flat piece of beadwork or done in the round, as was my AGGS entry. In the past ten years, I would have to say that covering vessels with peyote stitch is my favorite type of beadwork. I also make jewelry and use other stitches but always return to the peyote stitch. I have dozens of vases that I have covered with beads over time – some quite abstract, experiments with color, and attempts at duplicating Native American baskets.

As our chapter, SAGS – Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society, had planned on participating in the AGGS Convention in Sacramento, fellow chapter member and beader Kathy Autret and I wanted to enter something in the convention show as a way of participating as new members of the Society. We both spent time in the creating process and over several months were able to create our designs to enter in the crafts section of the show. As a result of much time, Kathy and I entered our finished pieces at our first AGGS Convention. I have to say that both of us were thrilled at having been acknowledged with a first and second place. I also feel quite honored to have been awarded "Best in the Arts".

Creatively, I wanted to represent a gesneriad through the use of beads. The process in creating the Streptocarpus was aided by our chapter who lovingly gave me feedback and encouragement to continue the process. The technique itself is a type of beadweaving. Each bead is woven into beads above them as a circular progress is maintained. The vase chosen was the shape I felt a Streptocarpus with its strapping leaves and flowers would most enhance. Essentially, the process is started from a circle of beads around the narrow part of the vessel below the lip. Each bead is then added with thread to the beads in the above row. Peyote stitch allows for increasing and decreasing which was necessary in working with a vase with an irregular shape. At the same time I was working on the creation of the leaves and the flowers as I wove around to the front of the vase. It may be important to note that none of the beads were attached to the vase with methods such as gluing. The beads are all attached to themselves. I could actually cut the beads off of the vase and have an intact, although flattened project that could perhaps be framed.

I have to say that as I worked on this project, I thought of nothing but attending my first AGGS Convention. For me, it was such a thrill to meet in person many of the people I had read about in *THE GLOXINIAN*, e.g., Toshijiro Okuto, as well as to meet those I had only corresponded with by email. It was also wonderful for me to see precious friends such as Dale Martens and Arleen Dewell to whom we are forever grateful for their tremendous support in assisting us in creating our chapter.



The beaded craft entries of first-time conventioners Deb Weinman and Kathy Autret

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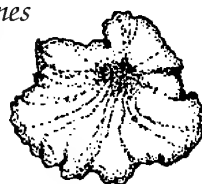
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My Introduction to Tropical Field Biology

John R. Clark <johnclark74@yahoo.com>
PO Box 2871, Pullman, WA 99165

It had to be well over 80°F and nearly 100% humidity that day. The treacherous slope we were on was no less than a 70% grade. It was densely covered with bamboo, small shrubs and the occasional tree that had somehow managed to hang onto the hillside for a few years. The soil was composed of loose rocks and slick mud that made every step a near disaster. Carefully, we made our way back down to the river nearly 400 meters below.

"So who's idea was this anyway?" I yelled down to Bruce and Mike, my field partners that had climbed the ridge with me. "That would be yours" Mike replied. "Oh, yeah" I mumbled to myself. Just then, a mess of ants fell from a nest above me and began biting my neck. I stammered and stumbled as I tried to brush the little beasts from my skin. Losing my balance, I reached out and grabbed the nearest branch – one that happened to be covered in long sharp spines. "Son of a ..." I began to exclaim as a louder exclamation roared from down below. "Look out!" Mike screamed as he slid down the slope, past Bruce, and out of sight leaving a trail of trampled shrubs and mud in his path.

The yelling and rumble of Mike's rapid decent soon ceased. "Are you okay?" Bruce inquired as we tried to look down below in search of our partner. "I'm okay" Mike said faintly off in the distance ... "but I think I have a tree-fern spine in my ass". Bruce and I began to laugh. Well, that was pretty exciting, I thought to myself. This was one of the many highlights of day five of our week-long field trip in Costa Rica.

Let me introduce myself before I continue with this story. My name is John R. Clark, and I am a new student of the Gesneriaceae. Not to be confused with John L. Clark, the accomplished field biologist and Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University, I am just starting my Ph.D. at Washington State University on the other side of North America. At WSU, I am working with Eric Roalson, a plant molecular biologist and former post doc who worked with Larry Skog at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC.

I first became truly acquainted with gesneriads about a year ago when I undertook curation of the former collections of the Gesneriad Research Foundation that are now at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. (Please see my previous article in the 2Q03 issue of *THE GLOXINIAN* about this project.) Before going to Selby, I spent several years working in various aspects of botany from herbarium curation to conservation research, tissue culture, and field collecting. I completed my BS and MS degrees at the University of Cincinnati. Early in 2001, however, I had become disenchanted with my career and, frankly, I was becoming a little tired of lab work. I had been accepted into a Ph.D. program at an Ohio University, but I wasn't thrilled with the prospect of spending another four years in the Midwest. My life was simply starting to get boring. Seeing that I needed to find a new direction, I took a year off to travel around the country to collect myself and re-focus my career. After a few adventures and unnecessary risks that I won't go into here, I once again began to look back at my career with plants. About this time, the opportunity at Selby presented itself, and I jumped at it. Little did I know that I would soon be wrapped up in the strange and wonderful and, yes, exciting world of gesneriads.

Some of the gesneriads on the *Boracayan* Preserve:
(photos by John R. Clark, Stig Dalstrom, Bruce Holst)



Columnea ornata



Alloplectus tetragonus



Nautilocalyx colombianus



*Drymonia
turrialvae*



*Drymonia
submarginalis*



Drymonia macrantha

This past May, near the end of my project at Selby Gardens, I had the great opportunity to participate in a botanical inventory trip to Costa Rica, partially sponsored by Selby Gardens. Bruce Holst, Director of Collections at Selby, initiated the trip following an invitation by John Bender and Ann Patton, the owners of the newly formed private wildlife refuge, *Boracayan*. This refuge, located about an hour from San Isidro in southwestern Costa Rica, is a 5000-acre parcel of land composed of old growth forest, reclaimed farmland and other miscellaneous habitats nestled in the mountains overlooking the blue waters of the Pacific. As part of the mission of *Boracayan* to study and preserve the flora and fauna of the region, we were invited to establish base-line data of the botanical diversity of the refuge. Along with Bruce Holst and myself, the other trip team members included Wesley Higgins and Stig Dalstrom from Selby Gardens, Nancy Edmondson from the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Jeanne Katzenstein whom we all know and love, Mario Blanco from Lankester Gardens in Costa Rica and a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida, and Mike Heaney, another graduate student at the University of Florida who is also an expert in what I now like to call the "rapid descent technique" described above.

This trip was a fantastic introduction for me to the world of tropical field biology. I had never seen a gesneriad in the wild and I was thus absolutely thrilled to see my first one growing epiphytically on a tree. Okay, so it was a blooming *Drymonia* species growing on a tree right next to a building in a developed area on the refuge – not exactly the romantic, steamy forest that I had imagined as the location of my first gesneriad encounter, but it was still impressive.



Drymonia species – John's first gesneriad sighting



Waterfalls cascading from the top of the ridge at *Boracayan*



Busy field work: John photographing during the day and processing plants and making herbarium specimens at night

The most memorable find had to be on day six, our last day in the field. Following the rough climb and near loss of Mike on the previous day, we were all quite tired. Nevertheless, four of us – Bruce, Mike, Nancy and I, along with our guide – decided to make another rough ascent to visit a remote and likely interesting ridge. That day we found many unusual plants as we climbed the steep ridge. We also came across a troop of howler monkeys and a coati with two cubs. The forest was exceptional, but I was not encountering any new gesneriads and thus was slightly discouraged. We climbed on, however, and soon made it to the top of one of the ridges.

The climb had taken all morning and early afternoon, and we would soon have to head back. To optimize our time, we decided to split up. Bruce and Nancy took a lower loop towards a waterfall that we were told was not far from our location. Mike and I, along with the guide, went up towards the mountain peak. At the top, Mike and I encountered one of the most magical places I had ever been – a tropical cloud forest.

The air was thick with water that cast a dark haze over everything. The trees, covered in epiphytes, were ghostly shadows that faintly outlined the dense forest that surrounded us. The fog seemed to muffle every sound. Even the raucous toucans were nearly silenced by the mist. Among us were thousands of beautiful and unusual plants in every direction. Mike found an incredible *Stelis* species (an orchid with small, three-petaled flowers). The specimen was a perfect mass of leaves and hundreds of small, maroon flowers. It was so perfect that we were convinced we could have entered it in a show, as is, and it would have taken first place!

Mike and I became mesmerized by the diversity and beauty of the cloud forest. We wandered in awe of these surroundings and eventually wandered away from each other. The guide also went his own way, and I soon realized that I was alone in the ghostly other world. As I drifted among the plants, I

encountered a massive branch that extended nearly three meters out from the side of a tree. The stem, more than 4 cm thick, supported many large, shiny green leaves. Near the end of this branch, that I soon recognized as an epiphytic gesneriad, were several large, white beautiful flowers. This massive plant was a *Drymonia* species. I had heard and read that these plants could attain such size, but I wasn't prepared for what I saw. The branch seemed to defy gravity as it outstretched from its base into the dense and life-giving fog of the forest. "This sure isn't my grandmother's African violets", I thought. As I gazed at the amazing plant floating in the deep cloudy forest, I couldn't help but smile.

I soon re-grouped with Mike and the guide and we made our way back down the mountain. Eventually we met back up with Bruce and Nancy, and we all descended the mountain together. Back at base camp we exchanged stories with the others and began, like each previous night, to press and prepare the collected herbarium specimens. We also had many cuttings as well as rooted plants that we prepared for shipment back to Selby. In all, we collected over 600 species of plants, about 20 of which were gesneriads.

While we all worked, we talked, told stories and joked about all the fun, and several mishaps, that had happened over the last week. Bruce, an accomplished field botanist, recounted adventures and fun that he had experienced through the years. Stig, another great field biologist and orchid specialist, recounted similar stories. Jeanne spoke of the study trips with Hans Wiehler and of the adventures of contemporary gesneriad field botanists like Alain Chautems. I listened to them all in wide-eyed wonderment. This, I thought, is the stuff of true adventure and life fulfillment. My fellow botanists' stories left no doubts – fieldwork is exciting. As I sat and listened to everyone, I once again began to smile. I think it was at this point I realized how exciting and rewarding this career path would be for me.



Part of the team celebrating while nearing the end of the processing –
Stig Dalstrom, Jeanne Katzenstein, Mario Blanco,
Nancy Edmondson, and John Clark

Gesneriad Register

Judy Becker, Registrar <jbecker@mohawk.net>
432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068-1102

The following registrations should be added to the Registered Gesneriads List found in Appendix C of the 1990 Gesneriad Register:

02812	<i>Strep.</i> 'Burgundy Ruffles'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Michael'	David Thompson
02813	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Butter Blues'	S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Sunsweet'	David Thompson
02814	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Calico Print'	S. 'Serius' × S. 'Janus'	David Thompson
02815	<i>Strep.</i> 'Cathedral Windows'	S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Bristol's Petticoats'	D. Thompson
02816	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Feathers on Ice'	S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Sunsweet'	David Thompson
02817	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Hot Ticket'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Lemon Drop'	David Thompson
02818	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Inkblot'	S. 'Serius' × S. 'Janus'	David Thompson
02819	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Inky Frills'	S. 'Blue Mars' × S. 'Bright Eyes'	David Thompson
02820	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'The King'	Seed from Geo. Park Seed Co	David Thompson
02821	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Moonlit Velvet'	S. 'Blue Mars' × S. 'Serius'	David Thompson
02822	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Persian Carpet'	S. 'Blue Mars' × S. 'Magnetosphere'	David Thompson
02823	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Picotee Dream'	S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Hera'	David Thompson
02824	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Picotee Lace'	S. 'Serius' × S. 'Janus'	David Thompson
02825	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Pink Aplenty'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Sunsweet'	David Thompson
02826	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Plum Pudding'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Kim'	David Thompson
02827	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Plum Smile'	S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Bristol's Blue Water'	D. Thompson
02828	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Stained Glass'	S. 'Blue Mars' × S. 'Serius'	David Thompson
02829	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Stoplight'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Phoebe'	David Thompson
02830	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Violet Profusion'	S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Kim'	David Thompson

***Streptocarpus* 'Burgundy Ruffles'**, 2002, IR02812, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Michael'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium sized, compact rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 9" long × 3" wide, elliptic with crenate edges, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" tall with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, ruffled on edges, dark red-purple with unmarked yellow throat. Received a blue ribbon at the 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from the hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Butter Blues'**, 2002, IR02813, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Sunsweet'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium sized compact rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 8" long × 2-1/2" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" tall with 6 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, light blue with purple streaks at bases of lower lobes, broad yellow throat. Unusually heavy bloom and dense habit with short and strong peduncles. Received red ribbon at 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from the hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Calico Print'**, 2002, IR02814, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Serius' × S. 'Janus'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Very compact, small rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 6" long × 2" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 4" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 1-1/2" long × 1-1/2" wide, white with violet-purple reticulate venation pattern throughout. Profuse bloomer with small growing habit. Best Other Gesneriad, Commercial Division, Blue Ribbon in Class, 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Cathedral Windows'**, 2002, IR02815, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Burgundy' × *S.* 'Bristol's Petticoats'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Compact, medium sized rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 10" long × 4" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 6" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2-1/4" wide, light lavender with dark violet venation on lower three lobes and solid dark violet throat. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Feathers on Ice'**, 2002, IR02816, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Burgundy' × *S.* 'Sunsweet'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Leaves bullate, medium green, 12" long × 2-1/2" wide, linear with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 7" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, white with distinct red-purple lines running from yellow throat and feathering out onto bases of three lower lobes. Blue Ribbon, 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Hot Ticket'**, 2002, IR02817, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Suzie' × *S.* 'Lemon Drop'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Small to medium rosette with flowers held just above leaves. Leaves bullate, medium green, 7" long × 3" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, hot pink with yellow and white throat. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

Streptocarpus
'Calico Print'



Streptocarpus
'Cathedral Windows'

Streptocarpus
'Inkblot'



***Streptocarpus* 'Inkblot'**, 2002, IR02818, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Serius' × *S.* 'Janus'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Very compact, small rosette, extremely floriferous. Leaves bullate, medium green, 6" long × 2" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 4" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 1-1/2" long × 1-1/2" wide, black-purple mottled with white, white stripes in throat and very thin white edges. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Inky Frills'**, 2002, IR02819, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Blue Mars' × *S.* 'Bright Eyes'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Large growing rosette that produces a dense mound of flowers just above the leaves. Leaves bullate, medium green, 12" long × 4" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 6" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2-1/4" wide, light blue with black-purple stripes extending from throat onto lower lobes. Red Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'The King'**, 2002, IR02820, David Thompson, IA. (Seed from Geo. Park Seed Co.) Planted 1993, first flowered 1993. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 10" long × 4" wide, oblong with crenate margin and acute tip. Calyx green 1/4" long. Peduncle 6" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, medium blue with dark blue-purple venation on lower lobes, throat white with dark blue-purple lines. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Moonlit Velvet'**, 2002, IR02821, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Blue Mars' × *S.* 'Serius'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Large growing rosette. Leaves bullate, dark green, 10" long × 4" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 6" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, ruffled, 2" long × 2-3/4" wide, lower three lobes almost black with violet tints and satiny sheen, upper lobes lavender, washed and veined with deep purple, white throat with black-violet lines. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Persian Carpet'**, 2002, IR02822, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Blue Mars' × *S.* 'Magnetosphere'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively.

Compact, medium sized rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 9" long \times 4" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 6" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long \times 2" wide, blue, dappled and veined with purple, white throat with bold purple striping. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Picotee Dream'**, 2002, IR02823, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Burgundy' \times *S.* 'Hera'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium sized, compact rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 9" long \times 3" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx reddish green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long \times 2" wide, red-purple, upper lobes lighter, all segments with fine white picotee edge. (syn. 'Picotee Pansy') Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Picotee Lace'**, 2002 IR02824, David Thompson, IA. (*S.* 'Serius' \times *S.* 'Janus'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Small and very compact rosette, very floriferous. Leaves bullate, medium green, 6" long \times 2" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 4" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 1-1/2" long \times 1-1/2" wide, white with reticulate violet-purple venation and with violet purple suffusion everywhere except wide border and throat. Blue Ribbon, 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.



Streptocarpus
'Picotee Dream'

Streptocarpus
'Pink Aplenty'



***Streptocarpus* 'Pink Aplenty'**, 2002, IR02825, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Sunsweet'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 10" long × 4" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 6" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, dark pink with wide yellow throat. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Plum Pudding'**, 2002, IR02826, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Kim'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 10" long × 3" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx red-green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 4" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 1-3/4" wide, dark black-purple with two yellow lines in white throat. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Plum Smile'**, 2002, IR02827, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Burgundy' × S. 'Bristol's Blue Water'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Small to medium compact rosette. Leaves bullate, dark green, 9" long × 3" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 4" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, white with throat and three lower lobe bases suffused with purple, two distinct yellow-white streaks in throat. Red Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Stained Glass'**, 2002, IR02828, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Blue Mars' × S. 'Serius'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Compact, medium sized rosette with numerous flowers well displayed just above leaves. Leaves bullate, medium green, 9" long × 3" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, white with violet suffusion and darker violet veins extending into throat, narrow white ruffled edge. Blue Ribbon 2002 AVSA Convention. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Stoplight'**, 2002, IR02829, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Phoebe'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Compact rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 8" long × 3" wide, oblong with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green 1/4" long. Peduncle 5" long with 5 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, red with white marked throat. Available from hybridizer.

***Streptocarpus* 'Violet Profusion'**, 2002, IR02830, David Thompson, IA. (S. 'Suzie' × S. 'Kim'). Cross made Jan. 2001, planted Aug. 2001 and first flowered Jan. 2002. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Compact small-medium rosette, flowers display well over ascending leaves. Very floriferous. Leaves bullate, medium green, 9" long × 2-1/2" wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, 3/8" long. Peduncle 5" long with 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 2" long × 2" wide, violet with unmarked yellow throat. (syn. 'Lotsa Violet') Available from hybridizer.

Botanical Review Committee, Report #26

Compiled by John Boggan
Dept. of Botany, NHB 166, Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20670

Note: These citations, as well as more recent ones not yet treated by the Botanical Review Committee, can be found online in the Smithsonian Institution's "Bibliography of Gesneriaceae" at <<http://persoon.si.edu/gesneriad>>.

Amaya-Márquez, M., L.E. Skog, C.E. González, & J.F. Smith. 2000. Una nueva especie de *Columnnea* (Gesneriaceae) del norte de los Andes. *Caldasia* 22(2): 185-189.

Columnnea reticulata, a new species belonging to section *Ortholoma* from the Andean region of Colombia and Ecuador, is described and illustrated.

Hiep, Nguyen Tien & R. Kiew. 2000. New and interesting plants from Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 52: 185-202.

Six new species are described from Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, including three new gesneriads: *Chirita halongensis*, *C. hiepii*, and *C. modesta*. In addition, notes on habit and habitat for *C. drakei*, *C. gemella*, and *C. hamosa* are provided. The article includes color photographs of *Chirita drakei*, *C. gemella*, *C. halongensis*, and *C. hiepii* growing in the wild.

Jong, K. & M. Möller. 2000. New chromosome counts in *Streptocarpus* (Gesneriaceae) from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands and their taxonomic significance. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 224: 173-182.

Chromosome numbers are recorded for 10 species of *Streptocarpus*, including 9 new counts: *S. beampingaratensis* ssp. *beampingaratensis* (2n=30), *S. variabilis* (2n=96), *S. perrieri* (2n=64), *S. papangae* (2n=32), *S. ibityensis* (2n=32), *S. itremensis* (2n=32), *S. tanala* (2n=30), *S. thompsonii* (2n=30, 2n=60), *S. buchananii* (2n=30), and an unidentified species (2n=30). All the species except *S. buchananii* come from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands. While there is a strong correlation between basic number and growth form in the two subgenera of the genus on the African mainland (x=15 among caulescent species in subgenus *Streptocarpella*; x=16 among acaulescent species in subgenus *Streptocarpus*), the situation appears more complex among Madagascan and Comoro Island species. Evolutionary implications of the chromosome numbers are discussed, one conclusion being that a split into two subgenera based only on morphology is overly simplistic.

Vitek, E., A. Weber & B.L. Burt. 2000. Names, types, and current placement of the species hitherto referred to *Didymocarpus*, *Loxocarpus*, *Codonoboea*, *Platyadenia* and *Henckelia* (Gesneriaceae). *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* 102B: 477-530.

Following recent work on *Didymocarpus* and the associated genera *Loxocarpus*, *Codonoboea*, and *Platyadenia*, which resulted in a much narrower delimitation of *Didymocarpus*, the re-instatement and enormous

expansion of *Henckelia* and the erection of the new genus *Hovanella*, a list is presented in which the current position of the species formerly referred to these genera can be found.

Wagner, W.L. & D.H. Lorence. 2000. A reassessment of *Cyrtandra kealiae* and *C. limahuliensis* (Gesneriaceae). *Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 63: 17-20.

In the most recent treatment of *Cyrtandra* on Hawaii (1990, *Manual of the flowering plants of Hawai'i*) the name *Cyrtandra limahuliensis* was misapplied. In this paper, *C. limahuliensis* is reduced to synonymy under *C. kealiae* subsp. *kealiae*. The subspecies is characterized by possessing a tubular calyx. An additional subspecies, *C. kealiae* subsp. *urceolata*, is described for plants with urceolate calyces that were previously treated as *C. kealiae*. Both subspecies occur on the island of Kauai.

Wang Yin-Zheng & Li Heng. 2000. A new species of *Whytockia* W.W. Smith (Gesneriaceae) from Yunnan, China. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 38(2): 189-191.

A new species, *Whytockia gongshanensis*, is described from Yunnan, China. Illustrated.

Weber, A., B.L. Burt & E. Vitek. 2000. Materials for a revision of *Didymocarpus* (Gesneriaceae). *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* 102B: 441-475.

The paper includes a list of sectional, specific and infraspecific names relevant for *Didymocarpus* in its present definition, with reference to the original descriptions, type specimens, distributions, illustrations, and recent literature. All specific epithets ever used in *Didymocarpus* are summarized in an appendix, with an indication of the current positions of the names. (See also Vitek et al. 2000.)

Wei, Yi-Gang, Wen He-Qun & Zhong Shu-Hua. 2000. New materials of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi, China. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 38(3): 297-301.

Two new species, *Allocheilos guangxiensis* and *Chirita baishouensis*, are described from Guangxi, China. Illustrated. In Chinese with Latin descriptions.

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Research on Gesneriaceae in Austria:

Part I – The Early Roots

Anton Weber <anton.weber@univie.ac.at>
Institute of Botany, University of Vienna
Rennweg 14, A-1030 Vienna, Austria

In Austria, located in the heart of Europe and far away from the American, Asiatic or African tropics, research on the exotic family Gesneriaceae has a long tradition dating back to the middle of the 18th century. Perhaps the first Austrian (though Dutch-born) botanist who encountered tropical gesneriads in the field was **Nicolaus Joseph Freiherr von Jacquin** (1727-1817). Jacquin was a contemporary of Linnaeus, stood in close scientific contact with him, and was a most influential and stimulating botanist, chemist, phytochemist and pharmacist. He was professor of botany from 1768 to 1796 at the new Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden in Vienna, founded in 1753 by empress Maria Theresia.

The husband of Maria Theresia, Franz Stephan von Lothringen was an enthusiastic naturalist and passionate collector of natural objects of all kinds. In 1755 he sent an expedition to tropical America with the mission to collect plants, animals, minerals, etc. The leader was Jacquin. The journey took four years (from 1755 to 1759) and covered the Carribbean, the Antilles, Venezuela and Colombia. In the monumental, hand-colored folio "Selectarium stirpium americanarum historia ..." (1763 onw.), Jacquin illustrated numerous plants collected during the expedition, among them the flower and a section through the fruit of a gesneriad described as *Gesneria tomentosa* Jacq. (now known as *Rhytidophyllum crenulatum* DC.). The plants brought back from the expedition were grown in the glasshouses at the castle of "Schönbrunn". Some of these plants were depicted in "Plantarium rariorum horti caesarei Schönbrunnensis ..." (1779-1804) and there another new gesneriad was included: *Besleria serrulata* Jacq. We know this common and widespread neotropical species today as *Drymonia serrulata* (Jacq.) Mart. A few other gesneriads, described by other authors, are illustrated in Jacquin's magnificent folios, too.

In the first half of the 19th century, several significant expeditions to tropical countries were organized or attended by Austrian botanists, e.g., Thaddäus Haenke (1761-1817), Heinrich Wilhelm Schott (1794-1865), Franz Wilhelm Sieber (1789-1844), Karl Anselm Freiherr von Hügel (1795-1870), Ferdinand Lukas Bauer (1760-1826), and Emanuel Ritter von Friedrichsthal (1809-1842). **Heinrich W. Schott** is still known for his admirable work on aroids (inter alia, he discovered the attractive flamingo – or tailflower, *Anthurium scherzerianum* Schott). With regard to Gesneriaceae, two species have been named after him: *Alloplectus schottii* D. Don [now included in *Nematanthus lanceolatus* (Poir.) Chautems] and *Gloxinia schottii* Mikan (now in the synonymy of *Sinningia helleri* Nees).

The Austrian artist **Ferdinand L. Bauer** (like his brother Franz) entered botanical history as one of the greatest illustrators of plants and animals, sometimes apostrophed as the *Leonardo da Vinci* of natural history painting (see, e.g., <http://www.abc.net.au/navigators/pdfs/Bauer.pdf>). He accompanied Robert Brown on Flinders' expedition to Australia. On the way to



A 1763 illustration by Nikolaus Jacquin's own hand: "*Besleria cristata* L." [now *Alloplectus cristatus* (L.) Mart.] from Jacq., *Select. Stirp. Amer. Hist.* 188, pl. 119



A fine illustration of a gesneriad collected and described by Nikolaus Jacquin himself: "*Besleria serrulata* Jacq." [now *Drymonia serrulata* (Jacq.) Mart.]



A magnificent hand-coloured illustration of *Columnnea scandens* L. from Jacq., *Select. Amer. Hist. Picta* 88, pl. 170 (1780)



"*Loxotis obliqua* R.Br." (now *Rhynchoglossum obliquum* Blume), prepared by the great Austrian plant illustrator Ferdinand Bauer (from Benn. & Brown, *Pl. jav. Rar.*, t. 24, 1838)

Australia, a stop was made at the island of Timor, and Brown collected two gesneriads there: *Epithema brunonis* and *Rhynchoglossum obliquum*. Bauer's excellent drawing of the latter was included in Bennett & Brown's magnificent "Plantae Javanicae rariores" (1838-52, t. 24, as *Loxotis obliqua* R.Br.). **Emanuel v. Friedrichsthal** made extensive botanical (and other) collections on the Antilles and in Central America (Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama). His name is commemorated in many plant species, including the handsome and frequently cultivated gesneriad *Chrysothemis friedrichsthaliana* (Hanst.) H.E.Moore.



Chrysothemis friedrichsthaliana (Hanst.) H.E.Moore, originally described as *Tussacia friedrichsthaliana* by the German botanist Johannes Hanstein (1865/66), was named in honour of the Austrian naturalist and expedition leader Emanuel Von Friedrichsthal. (photo by A. Weber)

The grand Austrian taxonomist **Stephan Endlicher** (1804-1849) was the first to adopt Robert Brown's modern concept of Gesneriaceae (with the union of the hitherto separate families Gesneriaceae and Didymocarpaceae = Cyrtandraceae) in his "Genera plantarum" (1836-1840). The part comprising the Gesneriaceae appeared in the same year as Brown had published his treatise "On Cyrtandreae" (1839). Endlicher also established three new genera of Gesneriaceae: *Liebigia*, *Orythia* and *Quintilia*. All have been sunk into synonymy (*Chirita*, *Agalmyla* and *Stauranthera*, respectively), but, to the author's opinion, *Liebigia* should be revived for the accommodation of the peculiar *Chirita asperifolia* (Blume) B.L.Burtt and its allies. The only new species described by Endlicher, *Gesneria tubiflora* Endl., is now in *Sinningia tubiflora* (Hook.) Fritsch, but many new species of Gesneriaceae have been described by Endlicher's close collaborator in Leipzig, Eduard F. Poeppig (1798-1868) in the joint volume Poeppig & Endlicher "Nova genera et species plantarum" (1835-1845).

Another gesneriad genus was described by the successor of Endlicher in Vienna, **Eduard Fenzl** (1808-1879): *Arctocalyx*. This is now a synonym of *Solenophora*, and Fenzl's new species dedicated to Endlicher, *Arctocalyx endlicherianus* Fenzl, has been included in *Solenophora insignis*.

In the period described, only slight and punctual contributions have been made by Austrian botanists to the knowledge of Gesneriaceae. Most of the names established have disappeared in synonymy. There was no Austrian botanist who really was a specialist in the family. However, the situation changed significantly, when **Karl Fritsch** started work on the family. His name is intimately connected with the first German treatment and revision of Gesneriaceae in "Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" edited by Adolf Engler and Karl Prantl in Berlin (1893-1894). Fritsch's personality, his work on Gesneriaceae and the work of his students contemporary botanists will be described in Part II in the next issue of THE GLOXINIAN.

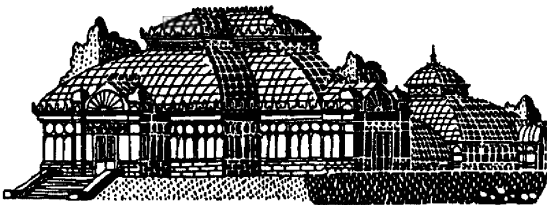
Publications of early Austrian botanists covering Gesneriaceae

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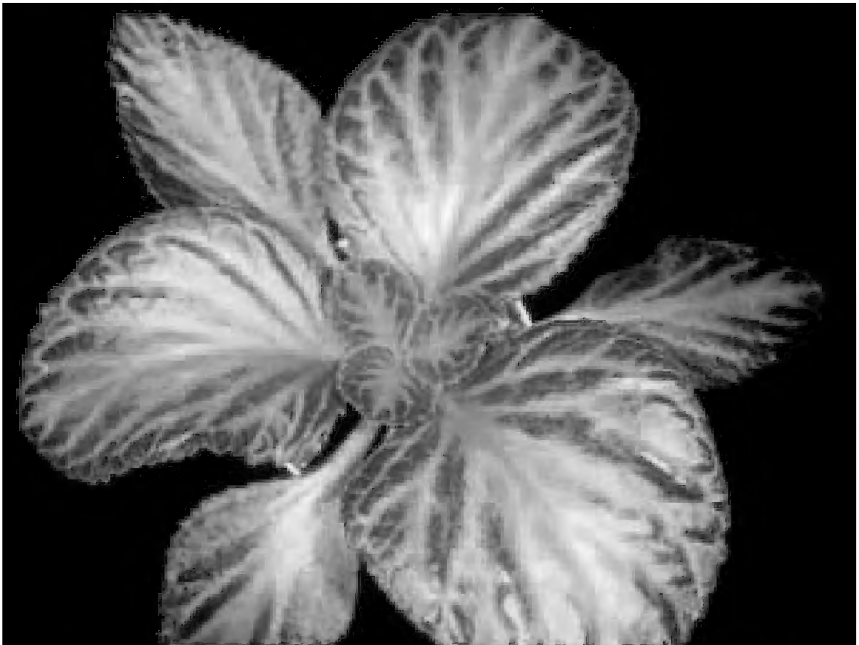
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Our newest slide program, "Sacramento: Convention 2003 Flower Show" will be available this fall. The "Capital Affair" convention featured a large and varied flower show. If you didn't make it to California, this is your chance to see the blue-ribbon winners and other special plants and exhibits. If you did attend convention, surely you'll want to see those great entries again. Contact me for availability. As a reminder, the following programs are also available:

- Introduction to Gesneriads (56 slides)
- Morristown NJ: Convention 2002 (78 slides)
- Kansas City MO: Convention 2001 (80 slides)
- Sinningias (80 slides)
- Achimenes (59 slides)
- Chirita (60 slides)
- The Companion Genera:
Nematanthus and *Codonanthe* (77 slides)
- Kohlerias (72 slides)
- Tampa FL: Convention 2000 (79 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Species (75 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Hybrids (79 slides)
- Alpine & Cool-Growing Gesneriads (78)

Programs can be reserved by mail to Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Road, Stow MA 01775-1604 or email to dee.stewart@110.net. Specify the program to be reserved and the date the program is required. Since new programs are very popular, it is helpful if you provide as much lead time as possible, provide alternate dates, or alternate programs that would be acceptable. Please specify the address the program is to be mailed to and a contact phone number. Program rental of \$20.00 U.S. payable to AGGS must be received before the program can be shipped. Your request will be promptly acknowledged and programs will be shipped to arrive at least one week in advance of your reserved date. Older programs are shipped in slide sleeves and must be placed in a carousel or other container for viewing. Newer programs are shipped in a carousel. Programs must be returned within 5 days of your reservation date via Priority Mail with delivery confirmation in the U.S. or the equivalent postal category from outside the U.S.



Chirita 'Vertigo', exhibited by Peter Shalit, one of the many award-winning Entries to be seen in the new Convention 2003 Flower Show slide program

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